

# Oregon Water Conditions Report



October 19, 2020

## HIGHLIGHTS

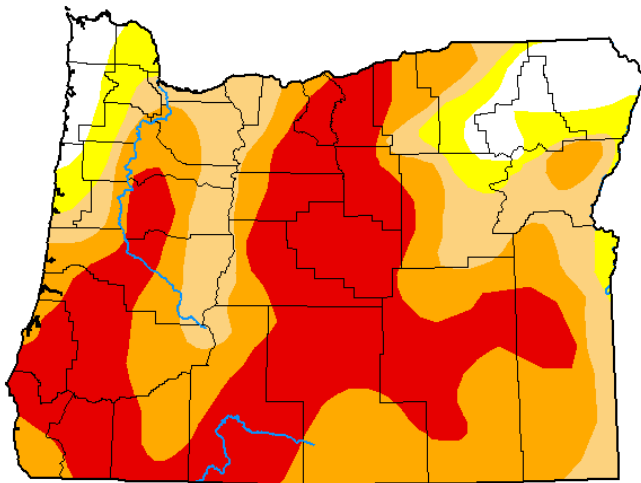
- While it is still a little early in the water year to compare, statewide precipitation is off to a good start at over 140% of average.
- Precipitation over the past [two weeks](#) has been above average across the Willamette, Umpqua, and coastal regions of western Oregon along with scattered areas in Klamath and Harney County as well as areas of north central Oregon. The rest of the state is still lagging at almost an inch below normal.
- US Drought Monitor indicates some improvement in northwest Oregon but conditions continue to deteriorate in southeastern Oregon. Fifteen counties are currently under a [Governor's drought declaration](#).
- The [8-14 day outlook](#) is for below-normal temperatures across all but the southwest third of the state where equal chances of above or below normal probabilities are forecast. Above-normal precipitation is forecast across the northwest third of the state with equal chances of above or below normal precipitation probability forecast for the remaining area.
- [Seasonal climate outlook](#) probabilities favor above-normal temperatures in the southern half of the state, with equal chances of above or below normal temperature to the north. Above-normal precipitation is forecast for the northeast third of the state with equal chances of above or below normal precipitation forecast for the remainder.
- Streamflows were below normal at 71% for the month of September, with basins in western Oregon measuring near 80% of normal, while basins east of the Cascades measured close to 60% of normal. Current statewide streamflow conditions are trending higher now at 85% of normal statewide but are in decline after recent rain events.
- Storage reservoirs are transitioning to the storage season along with balancing needs to meet in-stream demands.
- The potential for new significant fires will stay low through the week. Winds could be of concern for any planned prescription burning.

## DROUGHT CONDITIONS

The most recent update to the US Drought Monitor indicates slight improvement across parts of northwest and northeast Oregon, while parts of southeast Oregon continue to show some degradation. Over 93 percent of the state is in D0 (abnormally dry) conditions, close to 86 percent listed as in D1 (moderate drought), almost 70 percent is listed as in D2 (severe drought) and now over 37 percent is in D3 (extreme drought).

### U.S. Drought Monitor Oregon

**October 13, 2020**  
(Released Thursday, Oct. 15, 2020)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	6.51	93.49	86.44	69.99	37.31	0.00
<b>Last Week</b> 10-06-2020	6.51	93.49	86.44	68.84	35.63	0.00
<b>3 Months Ago</b> 07-14-2020	9.21	90.79	75.72	50.07	8.33	0.00
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> 12-31-2019	2.40	97.60	24.46	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Start of Water Year</b> 09-29-2020	6.50	93.50	84.77	65.53	33.59	0.00
<b>One Year Ago</b> 10-15-2019	88.54	11.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

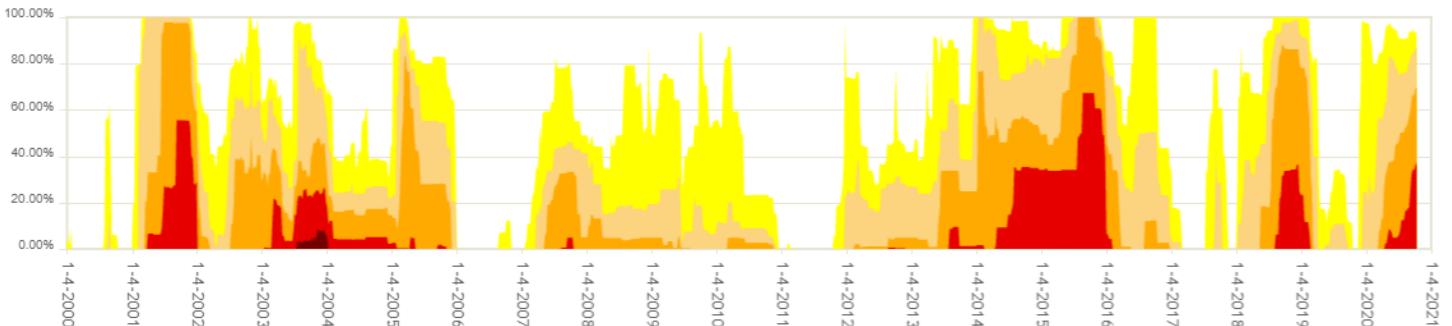
Author:

Curtis Riganti  
National Drought Mitigation Center



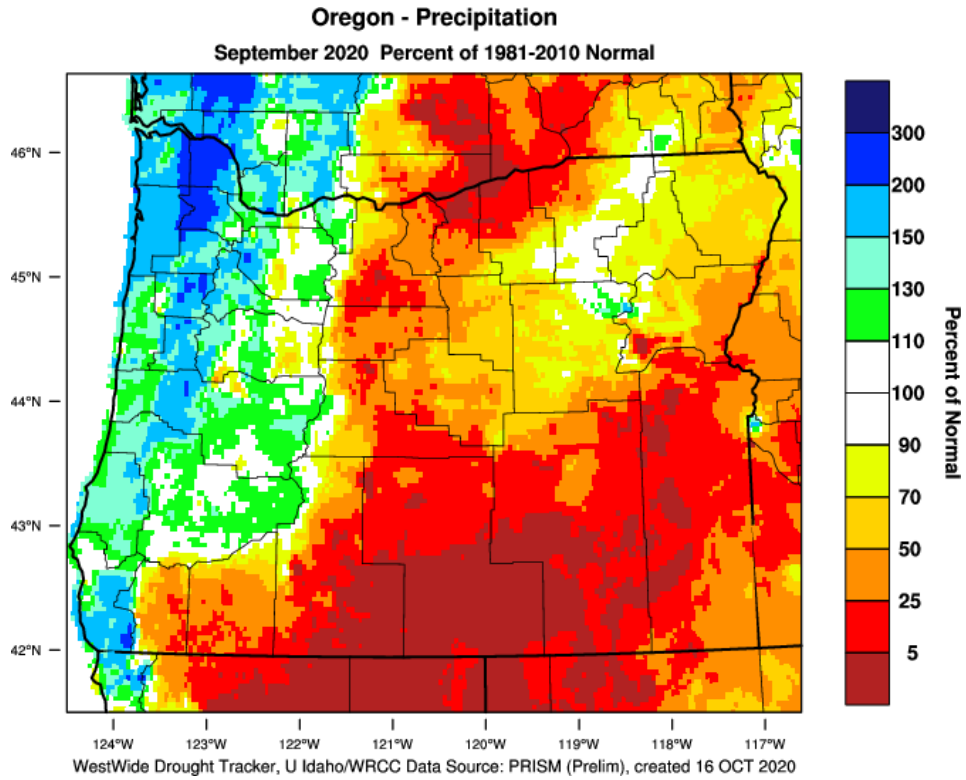
[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

### Oregon Percent Area

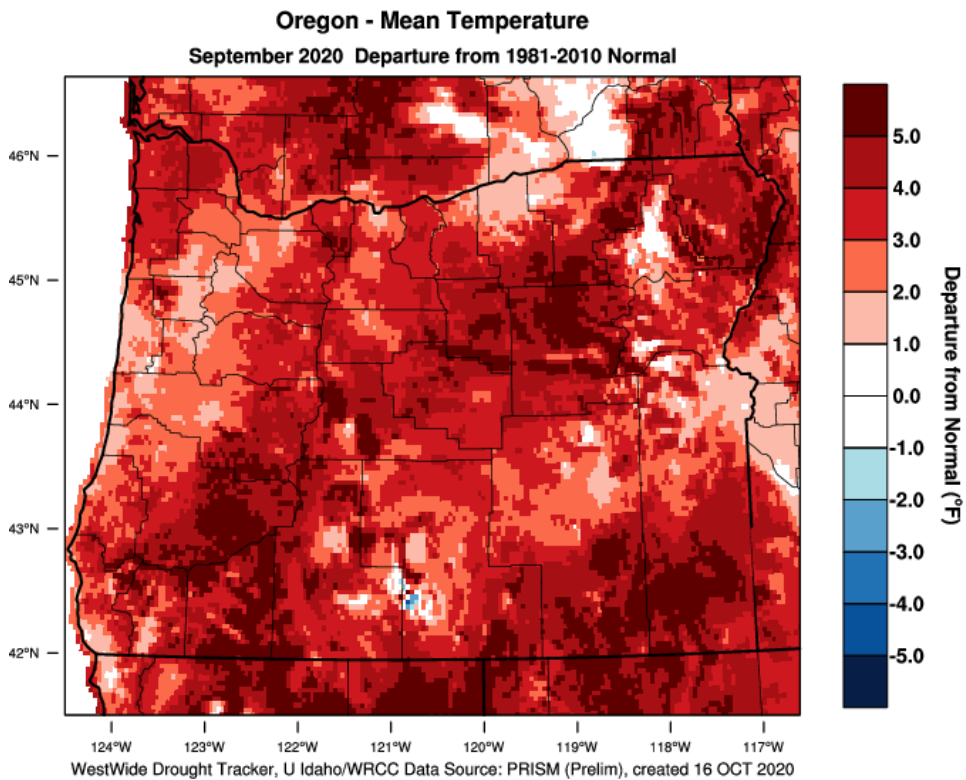


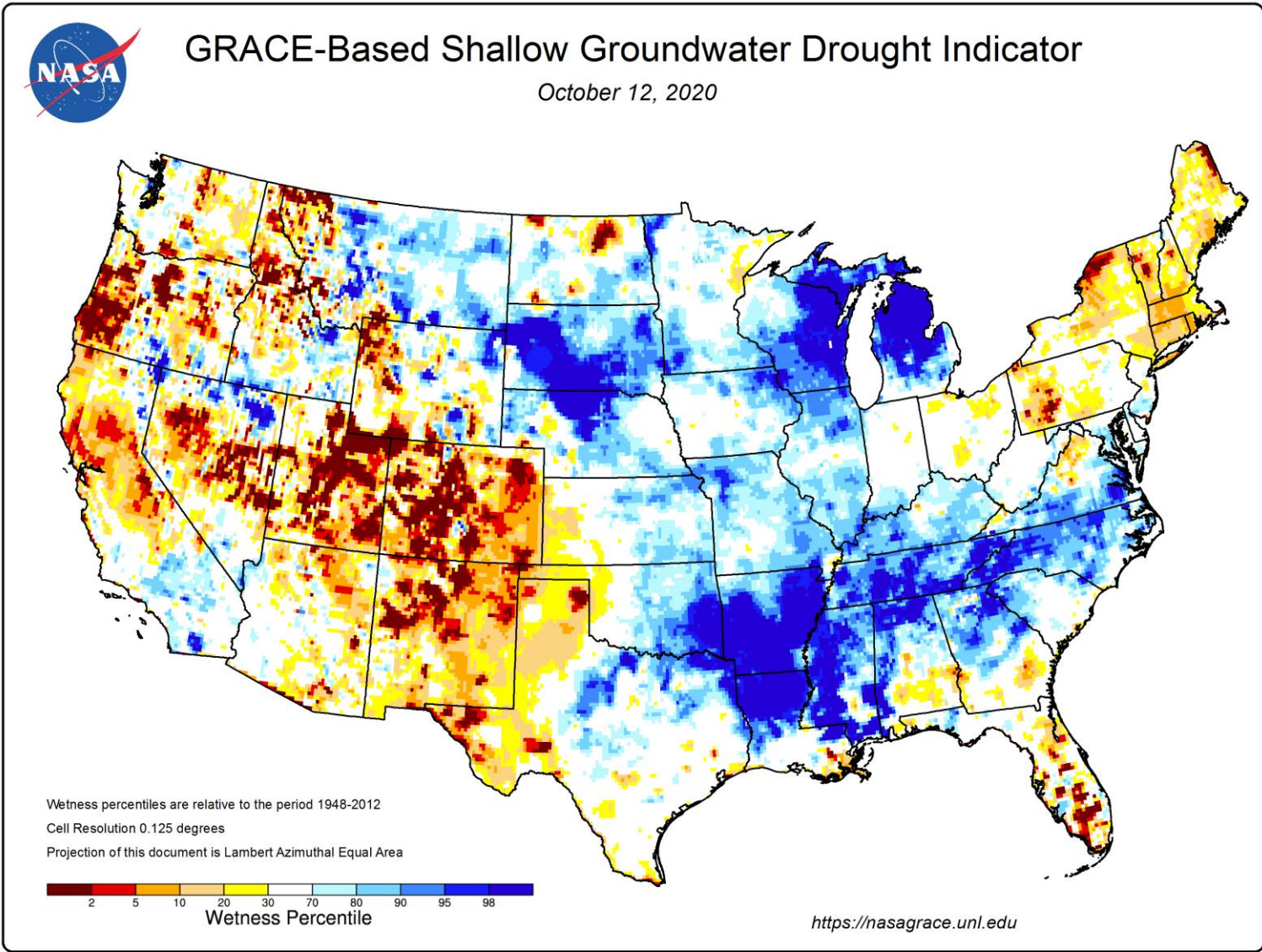
# CLIMATE CONDITIONS

## PRECIPITATION



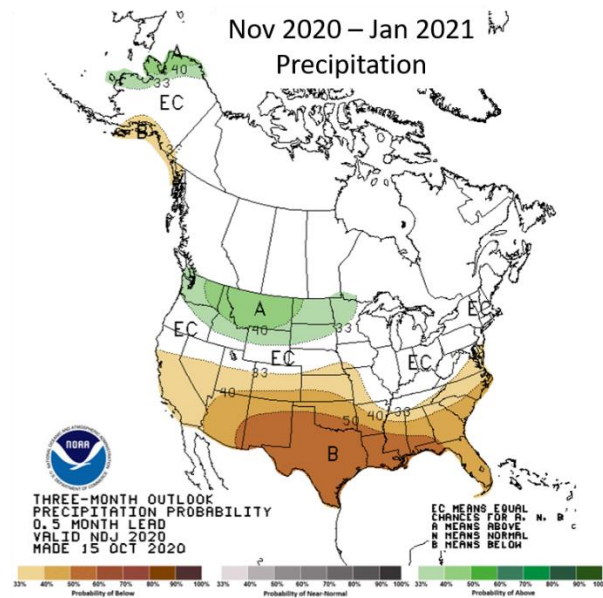
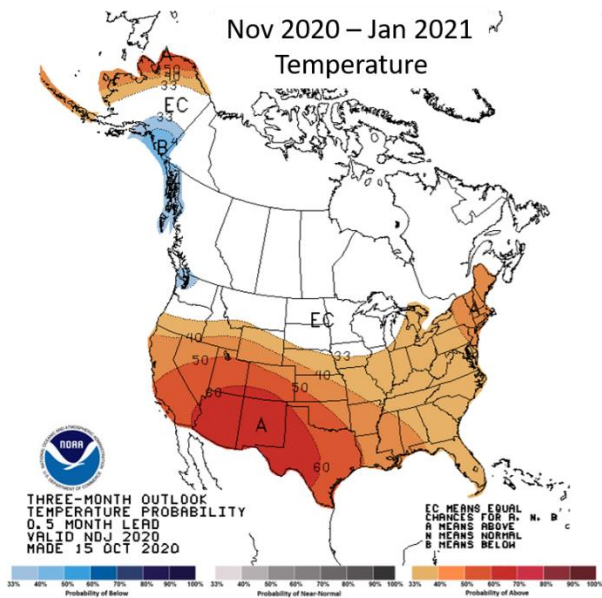
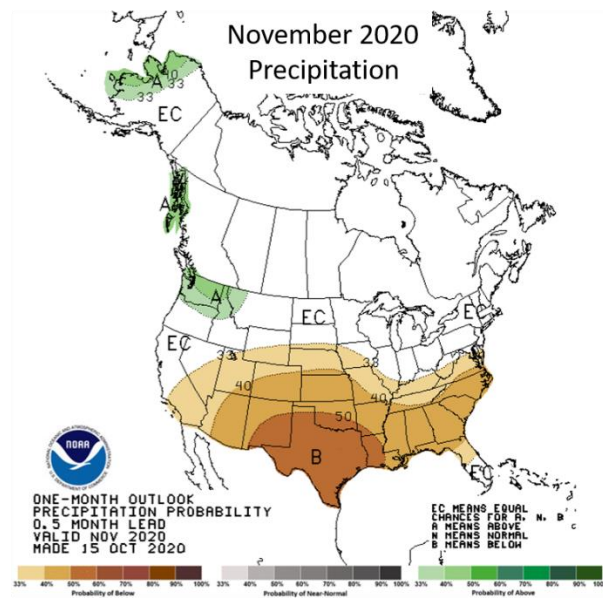
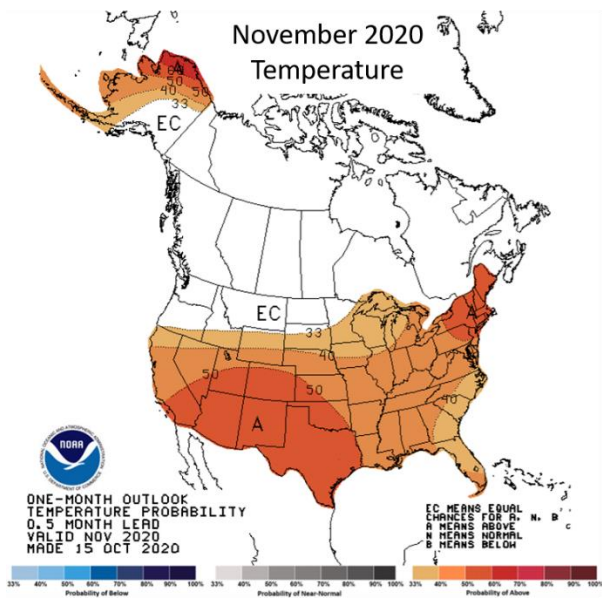
## TEMPERATURE



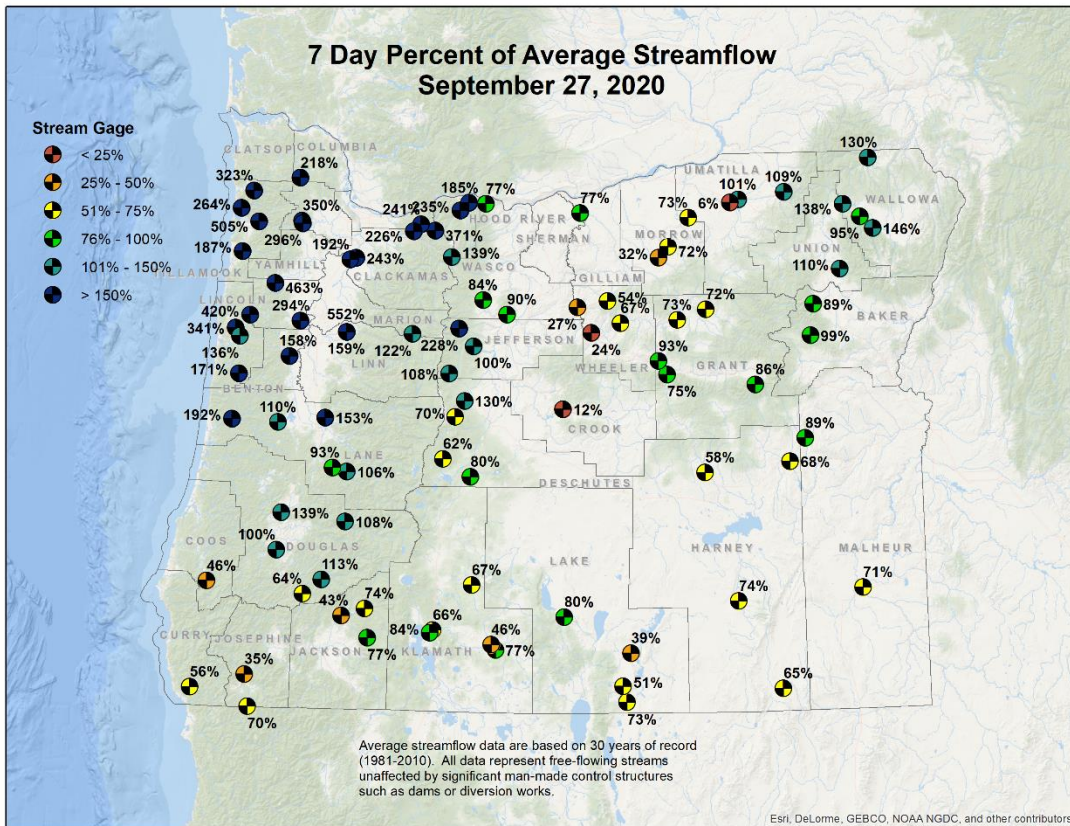
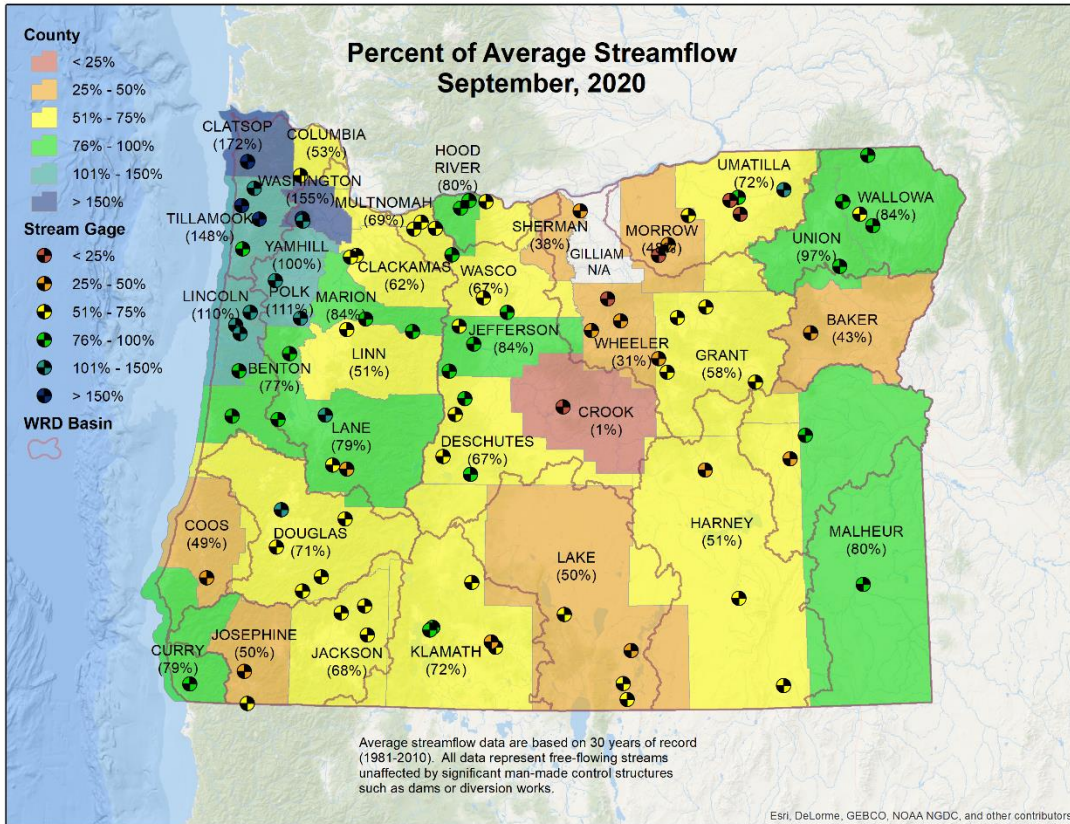




# CLIMATE OUTLOOK



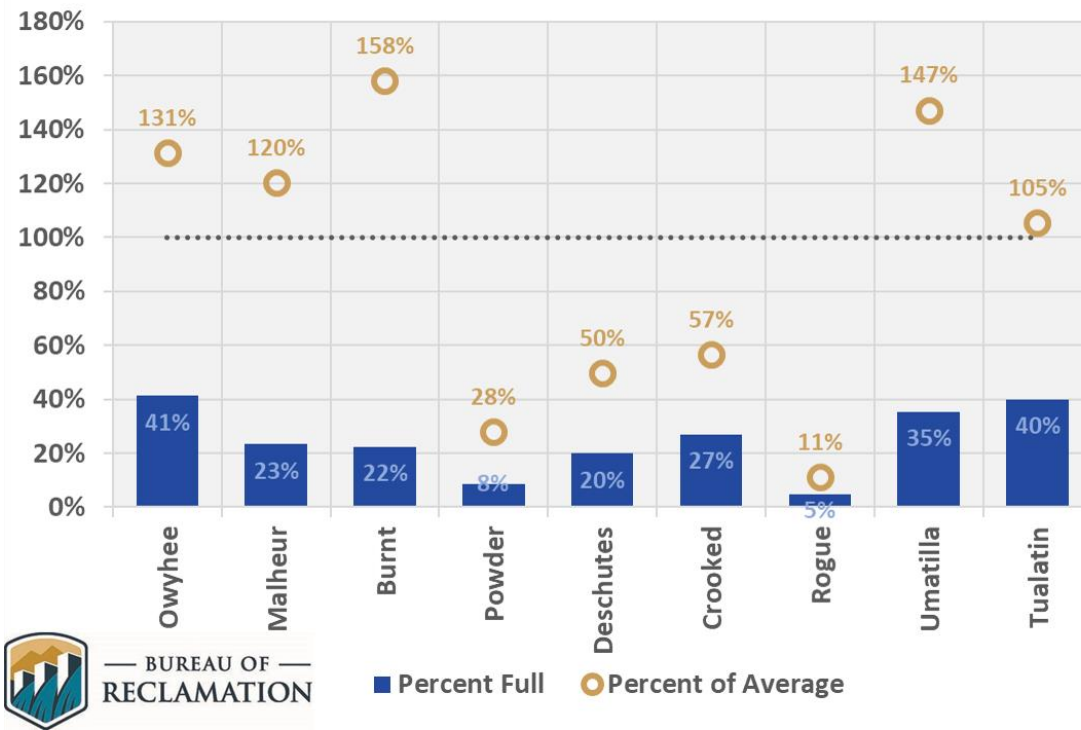
# STREAMFLOW



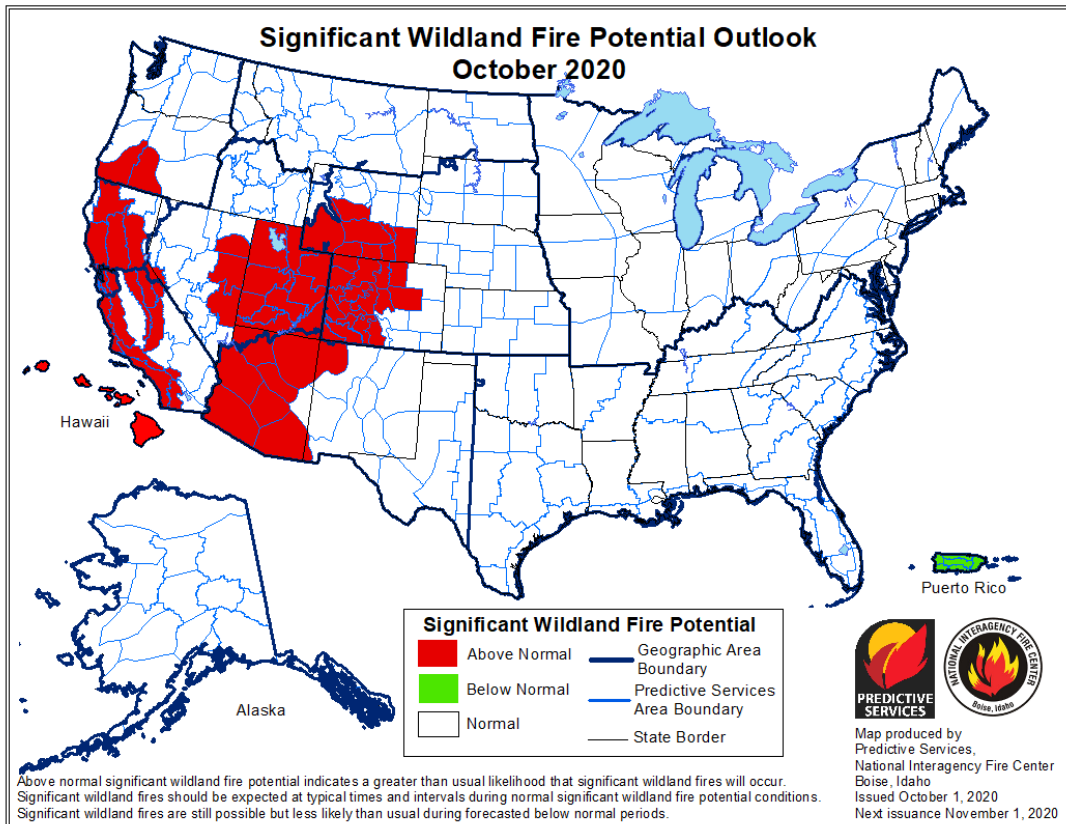


# STORAGE

## October 18 Reservoir Storage



# FIRE CONDITIONS



## RESOURCES / REFERENCES

Released every Thursday, the [US Drought Monitor](#) provides a weekly assessment of drought conditions. The USDM provides a [network infographic](#) which depicts the network of observers who gather and report information about conditions and drought impacts.

The [WestWide Drought Tracker](#) uses data from [PRISM](#) to provide easy access to fine-scale drought monitoring and climate products, such as the figures depicting climate conditions within this report.

The National Weather Service's [Climate Prediction Center](#) offers [weekly](#), [monthly](#), and [seasonal](#) climate outlooks illustrating the probabilities of temperatures and precipitation.

The [Regional Climate Centers](#) (RCC) working with NOAA partners, deliver climate services at national, regional, and state levels. Climate [anomaly maps of Oregon](#) are updated daily at around noon PST.

NASA's [Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment](#) (GRACE) provide satellite-based observations of soil moisture conditions that are useful as drought indicators, helpful in describing current wet or dry soil conditions.

USGS [Water Watch](#) provides maps of real-time and average streamflow conditions at USGS sites throughout the state.

Reservoir storage "teacup" diagrams are offered by both the [US Bureau of Reclamation](#) and [US Army Corps of Engineers](#). The diagrams represent the level of fill in the reservoirs as both percent full and as a ratio of volume of water currently in the reservoir to the volume of water in the reservoir when it is full.

Oregon wildfire information can be found through [InciWeb](#) and the Oregon Department of Forestry's [Wildfire News](#), along with the [National Interagency Fire Center](#) which offers outlooks on the significant wildland fire potential.

Oregon Office of Emergency Management maintains a [hydrology/meteorology dashboard](#) which shows state and local drought declarations, as well as hosts many of the data sources to generate this report. Use the selection arrows at the bottom of your browser to navigate through the various sources.

US Department of Agriculture provides the [Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin](#) as a vital source of information on US and global weather, climate, and agricultural developments, along with seasonally appropriate agrometeorological charts and tables. USDA's [Drought Programs and Assistance](#) offers links to programs and resources to help those struggling with persistent drought.